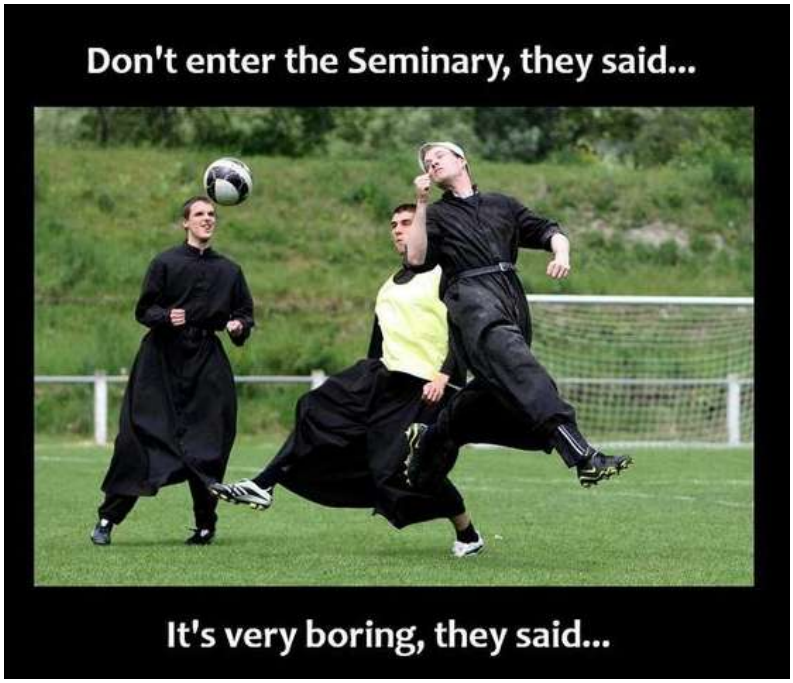
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, MI

"Follow Me"



www.pinterest.com **Pray for Vocations**

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

February 28, 2016 10:00 am

Third Sunday in Lent/Seminary Sunday

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"** **282 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Wayne Burling

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Wayne Burling

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Anthem** **"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"** FCC Choir

Call to Worship (Unison) Wayne Burling

God's gifts are available to all, yet some do not receive the gift of love in equal measure. God is faithful, extending love to everyone, yet many of us create boundaries to our love. How desperately we need to tear down these boundaries and realize that all are God's divinely created beings. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

***Hymn** **"Savior God Above"** **602 NCH**

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament **Genesis 42:13;78; 45:1-15** Wayne Burling

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament **John 4:1-9; 19-26** Carol Hall

Sermon **"Who Am I?"** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **Psalm 63 – Singing the Psalter** **660 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Heavenly Father, Heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come.
We pray that your good will be done.
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river,
from each one to each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence,
beyond the evil of our days,
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come
For yours is the power, and the mercy and the glory.
Forever your name is all in One. Amen
-Words Adapted by Parker Palmer

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Responsive) — Carol Hall

Gracious and giving Lord, we seek to be faithful in our covenant with you. We are responsible for our relationships with one another. Let us put a face on this covenant through those relationships. Help us to work together to witness to your steadfast love and to transform light from darkness in all that we do. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory — Steve McGhee

*Doxology — "Take My Gifts" — 562 NCH

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

*Prayer of Dedication *(Unison)* — Wayne Burling

All that we present to you now, O God, we have received from your hand. We give so the hungry may eat and the thirsty may receive cold, pure water. We actively invest time, money and talent in just causes so that your mercy may be known among all people. We give to pass on your gifts in generous response to your love for us to ensure others know the depth of this love as well. Amen."

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"There Is a Wideness in God's Mercy"** **23 NCH**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

One: God sends us out as witnesses to bring good news.

Many: God's mercy and pardon break through life's clouds.

One: Call on God as you need to in the midst of your day's tasks
Remembering and considering God's gifts of grace and mercy each evening.

Many: God is our help in all times and places;
We will remember that God is with us wherever we go.
Jesus showed us what we need to do and now we go forth.
Amen. **– Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

Open and Affirming Covenant of
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions.
All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.
We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: www.ypsiucc.com

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: Feb 28th	Next Sunday: Mar 6th
Usher	Marty Kleino	Marty Kleino
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Wayne Burling	Donna Eyster
Worship Set-up	Margaret Harner	Donna Eyster
Acolyte	Hunter Turner	Hunter Turner
Friendship Time	Anne Marie N-T	Melanie Harner
Sunday School	Alex Goldsmith	Melanie Harner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG: On **Sunday, March 6, from 3-6 p.m.** Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is presenting **"Transgender 101".** This presentation will help our church and community continue on its journey of faith formation as an Open and Affirming (ONA) Church of the United Church of Christ (UCC). **Please reserve your space by March 1st. by calling the office at (248)651-6225.**

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

NEW ADDRESS: Lorraine Sayles' new address; Orchard Hills Manor, 2139 Georgetown Blvd., Ann Arbor, 48105. Her phone number is the same as always (734) 483-3849.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .
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KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: A coalition of Open and Affirming United Church of Christ churches in Michigan. For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.
See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

MENTOR 2 YOUTH: Mentor2Youth is a non-profit organization that provides educational services and programs to at-risk youth ages 8-18 in Washtenaw County. Since its inception in 2011, Mentor2Youth has served more than 450 youth by taking a wholistic approach towards their well-being. Our mission is to ensure these youth have a promising future through educating and empowering them to excel in life, academics and work. We envision developing a school-to-career pipeline for at-risk youth as our organization continues to become more sustainable and expands over the next five years.
Contact Alex Goldsmith (alexandriansnowden@gmail.com) or visit their website (http://www.mentor2youth.com) for more information.

Today's Cover:

www.pinterest.com **Pray for Vocations**